NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Caribou-Targhee National Forest 1405 Hollipark Drive Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE February 19, 2003

03-20

Weed Free Order Signed by Intermountain Regional Forester

Regional Forester Jack G. Troyer signed an order effective February 11, 2003 requiring individuals possessing, storing, or transporting non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System lands in the Intermountain Region to have proof it is weed free.

Under the order each bale and container must be tagged or marked as weed free, or the individual must have original and current evidence of weed free certification present. In addition, all markings must meet State and/or County standards for certification as weed free.

Troyer said, "This action is necessary to prevent the spread of noxious weeds onto vulnerable ecosystems on National Forest System lands in the Intermountain Region."

The order applies to all National Forest System lands within the Intermountain Region, including the Ashley, Boise, Bridger-Teton, Caribou-Targhee, Dixie, Fishlake, Humboldt Toiyabe, Manti-LaSal, Payette, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, Uinta and Wasatch-Cache National Forests. Violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual--or \$10,000 for an organization--and/or imprisonment of not more than six months.

Persons with a permit specifically authorizing them from the effect of the order, and any member of an organized rescue force in the performance of an official duty are exempt.